Remarks

Claims 1-34 are now pending in this application. Claims 1-24 are rejected. Claims 1-4, 6-20, and 22-23 have been amended. Claims 25-34 have been newly added. No new matter has been added.

In accordance with 37 C.F.R. 1.136(a), a three-month extension of time is submitted herewith to extend the due date of the response to the Office Action dated April 8, 2003 for the above-identified patent application from July 8, 2003 through and including October 8, 2003. In accordance with 37 C.F.R. 1.17(a)(3), authorization to charge a deposit account in the amount of $950.00 to cover this extension of time request also is submitted herewith. In addition, an authorization to charge the deposit account for the newly added claims has been submitted herewith.

Applicants note that the present application was filed with informal drawings for examination purposes only. Formal drawings will be submitted upon receipt of a Notice of Allowance.

The rejection of Claims 1-24 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being unpatentable over Sexton (U.S. Patent 5,056,001) is respectfully traversed.

Sexton describes a method for configuring a smart module coupled to a programmable logic controller system (column 1, lines 6-10). In the method, when a PLC (15) is first powered on and initialized, a configuration file which is contained in the PLC is transmitted to a smart module (75A) to instruct the smart module what initial configuration to assume (column 4, lines 51-54). The configuration file is stored in the smart module and the smart module assumes the configuration specified in this initial configuration file which was received from the PLC (column 4, lines 54-58). The user can employ the method to then modify the initial configuration by using a hand held programmer (75A) (column 4, lines 58-61).

Claim 1 recites a method for storage and retrieval of programs and data within a PLC system, the PLC system including a plurality of modules including a memory host module including a CPU and memory, at least one option module including a CPU and memory, a backplane interconnecting the memory host module and the option module, the method including the steps of "storing in the memory of the memory host module an operating program and data for the option module; and retrieving a first portion of the operating

program and data from the memory of the memory host module, wherein the first portion corresponds to the option module; retaining, by the memory host module, a remaining portion of the operating program and data; and transmitting the first portion of the operating program and data to the option module."

Sexton does not describe or suggest a method for storage and retrieval of programs and data within a PLC system, the PLC system including a plurality of modules including a memory host module including a CPU and memory, at least one option module including a CPU and memory, a backplane interconnecting the memory host module and the option module, the method including the steps of storing in the memory of the memory host module an operating program and data for the option module, and retrieving a first portion of the operating program and data from the memory of the memory host module, where the first portion corresponds to the option module, retaining, by the memory host module, a remaining portion of the operating program and data, and transmitting the first portion of the operating program and data to the option module.

More specifically, Sexton does not describe or suggest retrieving a first portion of the operating program and data from the memory of the memory host module, where the first portion corresponds to the option module, retaining, by the memory host module, a remaining portion of the operating program and data, and transmitting the first portion of the operating program and data to the option module. Rather, Sexton describes transmitting from the PLC to the smart module a configuration file to instruct the smart module what initial configuration to assume. For the reasons set forth above, Claim 1 is submitted to be patentable over Sexton.

Claims 2-9 depend from independent Claim 1. When the recitations of Claims 2-9 are considered in combination with the recitations of Claim 1, Applicants submit that dependent Claims 2-9 likewise are patentable over Sexton.

Claim 10 recites a memory host for a programmable logic controller (PLC) system, the system including at least one option module further including an option module memory, the memory host comprising a memory, a central processing unit (CPU), and a backplane interface, the memory host configured to "store an operating program and data in said memory for the at least one option module; and retrieve a first portion of the operating program and data from said memory; wherein the first portion corresponds to said option

module; retain a remaining portion of the operating program and data; and transmit the first portion of the operating program and data to the option module."

Sexton does not describe or suggest a memory host for a programmable logic controller (PLC) system, the system including at least one option module further including an option module memory, the memory host comprising a memory, a central processing unit (CPU), and a backplane interface, the memory host configured to store an operating program and data in the memory for the at least one option module, and retrieve a first portion of the operating program and data from the memory, where the first portion corresponds to the option module, retain a remaining portion of the operating program and data, and transmit the first portion of the operating program and data to the option module.

More specifically, Sexton does not describe or suggest the memory host configured to retrieve a first portion of the operating program and data from the memory, where the first portion corresponds to the option module, retain a remaining portion of the operating program and data, and transmit the first portion of the operating program and data to the option module. Rather, Sexton describes transmitting from the PLC to the smart module a configuration file to instruct the smart module what initial configuration to assume. For the reasons set forth above, Claim 10 is submitted to be patentable over Sexton.

Claims 11-24 depend, directly or indirectly, from independent Claim 10. When the recitations of Claims 11-24 are considered in combination with the recitations of Claim 10, Applicants submit that dependent Claims 11-24 likewise are patentable over Sexton.

For at least the reasons set forth above, Applicant respectfully requests that the Section 102 rejection of Claims 1-24 be withdrawn.

Newly added Claim 25 recites a method for storage and retrieval of programs and data within a PLC system. The reference cited in the Office Action does not describe or suggest a method for storage and retrieval of programs and data within a PLC system as recited in Claim 25. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that Claim 25 is patentable over the cited art.

Newly added claims 26-29 depend from independent Claim 25, which is submitted to be in condition for allowance and patentable over the cited art. For at least the reasons set
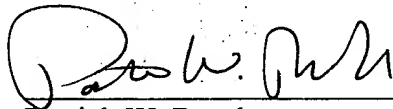
forth above, Applicants respectfully submit that claims 26-29 are also patentable over the cited art.

Newly added Claim 30 recites a memory host for a PLC system. The reference cited in the Office Action does not describe or suggest a memory host for a PLC system as recited in Claim 30. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that Claim 30 is patentable over the cited art.

Newly added claims 31-34 depend from independent Claim 30, which is submitted to be in condition for allowance and patentable over the cited art. For at least the reasons set forth above, Applicants respectfully submit that claims 31-34 are also patentable over the cited art.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, all the claims now active in this application are believed to be in condition for allowance. Reconsideration and favorable action is respectfully solicited.

Respectfully Submitted,

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